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SECURITY INFORMATION

Assistant Director, O/RR

21 December 1951

Chief, D/S

Proposal for a Transportation Commodity Section

It is proposed that a section be established in the Transportation Branch to exploit all available sources for data concerning the transport of basic commodities within the Soviet Bloc.

Mission. The primary mission of this section will be to meet the specialized transportation requirements of various components of O/RR and outside agencies and to furnish analyses of: Specific commodity movements; technical aspects of such movements; seasonal factors and other limitations affecting traffic flows; statistical data covering quantity, quality and capacity of specialized equipment (petroleum and chemical tank cars, coal hoppers and flat cars, oil, ore and grain ships, etc.); the effects of new construction of facilities or changes in equipment inventories on the existing delivery patterns between producers and consumers.

Justification. No service facilities of this nature appear to exist in the intelligence community. This service will make an important contribution to existing trade data on the Soviet Bloc and should provide information pertinent to the whole question of export controls. The long-term cumulative results of this work, moreover, will greatly benefit O/RR by providing data essential for a future study of considerable magnitude on Soviet Bloc freight transport capabilities.

Personnel. To adequately cover the traffic flow of major commodities by all forms of transportation, including pipelines, in the USSR and Satellites of Europe and the Far East, the Commodity Section should initially consist of [redacted] junior analysts (OS 7-9) and [redacted] senior analysts [redacted].

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The junior members would be assigned, on request, to undertake research in the files of other O/RR branches under the direction of the senior analyst who would be responsible for this type of activity and who would supervise the collation of material uncovered and prepare final reports in a form acceptable to the requester. This procedure has the approval of the commodity divisions of O/RR.

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